

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph **0002** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0002] This application is also related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/621,115 ~~{Docket No. 9005/19}~~ filed on even date herewith, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Performing System Monitoring In A Terminal Independent Interface Located Between A Terrestrial Optical Terminal And An Undersea Optical Transmission Path."